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WELFARE ASSOCIATION

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Board of Directors

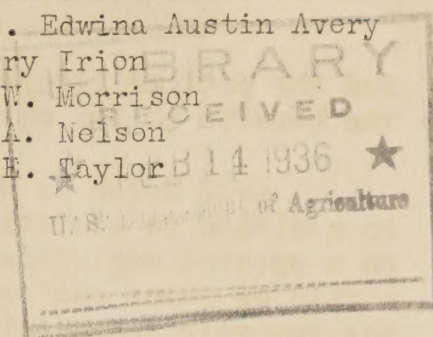
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The year of 1935 brought the Welfare Association many opportunities for service. Each year sees this employee organization become a more vital force in the health and happiness of the personnel of the Department. While organized primarily to care for emergency illness or other misfortunes of the Department people in and near Washington, the Association has gradually extended its benefits to welfare in a broader sense, and has sponsored various employee activities for the betterment of the "esprit de corps" and morale of employees.

Loans were made largely for hospitalization, special nurses, and incidental expenses, although minor sums were advanced in special cases for living expenses where sickness had drained reserve funds, or where pay checks had been held up. Money is loaned without interest for the first twelve months, but each loan request is carefully examined by a Bureau committee and by the Board of Directors of the Association before being approved.

Loans made during 1935 were as follows:

	<u>No. of Loans</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Agricultural Adjustment Administration	69	\$ 4,242.80
Agricultural Economics	9	693.65
Agricultural Engineering	2	200.00
Bureau of Animal Industry	9	538.67
Bureau of Biological Survey	4	128.00
Agriculture Cafeteria	4	190.50
Chemistry and Soils	3	327.45
Entomology and Plant Quarantine	5	395.00
Extension Service	4	253.80
Food and Drugs	11	977.80
Forest Service	3	353.65
Information	2	191.00
Bureau of Plant Industry	8	423.71
Bureau of Public Roads	3	202.00
Secretary's Office	10	1,054.00
Soil Conservation	2	250.00
Welfare Store	2	324.25
Weather Bureau	7	409.45
	<u>162</u>	<u>\$11,155.73</u>

Arrangements are in effect with four hospitals and a sanitarium permitting the assignment of patients to the hospitals at reduced rates. When the patient is discharged, the bill is paid in cash by the Association,

and the patient repays the organization in monthly installments, receiving the benefit of the cash discount.

Mrs. Helen A. Winfree, the Welfare Worker of the Association, has, in addition to assisting in the Emergency Room in the South Building, served on a special employees' health committee, a housing committee, and maintained a file of rooms and houses for rent for the accomodation of employees. She has investigated special welfare cases for the Association and has been able to check up on the borrowers who were delinquent in their payments on loans.

Tangible encouragement, consisting of a substantial loan, was given to the Athletic and Recreational Association organized during the year. This group sponsors handball, baseball, tennis, golf, bowling, hiking, swimming, and other similar activities among employees. Similar aid had previously been extended to the Musical and Theatrical Guild organized in 1934. An additional amount of \$1500 was invested in stock of the Department of Agriculture Credit Union, bringing the Association's total stock in this concern to \$2000, the maximum permitted. The Credit Union is serving a worthwhile need in the Department, and the Welfare Association was glad to make the investment as a means of further aiding employees, while providing a safe outlet for reserve funds.

The Association gave a Halloween party and a dance and bingo party in the patio of the main building. The latter was a benefit for the newly organized Department of Agriculture American Legion Post. Both affairs were very successful.

The Agriculture Exchange, a weekly mimeographed four-page leaflet carrying announcements of various employee activities, was sponsored by the Welfare Association. The Association finances all costs in connection with the printing of the sheet, while the editorial talent is furnished by the Athletic and Recreational Association. The Exchange has proven to be very popular, and all employee organizations are invited to use its facilities for making announcements and spreading information to the personnel of the Department.

These things have been made possible without any call for direct contributions from the Department employees. Profits derived from the Agriculture Cafeteria and Welfare Store supply the necessary funds to permit the Association's manifold activities. The Cafeteria, operated under the supervision of a Board of five members appointed by the Secretary and ably managed by Mrs. M. H. Jones, expanded during 1935 to include a new cafeteria between wings five and six of the South Building, a suite of private dining rooms between wings six and seven, and the "Pantry Shelf" in the basement of wing five. A total of 687,176 meals were served during the year at an average cost of twenty-three cents each. Total sales amounted to \$158,116.36, and the average daily number of meals served was 2,326. Meal tickets sold at a discount of approximately fifteen per cent, returned \$4,171.40 to employees.

The Welfare Store increased its sales from \$68,006.81 in 1934 to \$111,631.44 in 1935. Under the capable management of Mr. D. L. Shaw, the store has grown in popularity and patronage. It is maintained primarily

for the disposal of those surplus perishable products from the National Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, Maryland, which cannot be sold advantageously through regular commercial channels. In addition to the surplus government-owned supplies sold by the Store, lunch goods, cold drinks, candies, tobaccos, etc., are also handled for the convenience of employees. During the year, a branch lunch counter was established by the Store at Beltsville to care for the employees at that point. Considerable new equipment has been purchased to take care of the growing volume of business.

Approximately 100 people are employed in the Cafeteria and six in the Store. The monthly wages received by a large number of these employees do not equal the salaries of people in the Government service. This is due to existing wage scales in similar commercial enterprises and to the short hours in the Cafeteria necessitated by serving only one meal per day. In addition to paying rates equal to or above the average for the District, however, employees of the Agriculture Cafeteria and Store are entitled to participate in the privileges of the Welfare Association, and after six months' continuous service, are given free hospitalization of twenty-one days in any calendar year. Annual leave on full pay is granted at the rate of one day per month for employees working more than six months and less than twelve, and fifteen days per year for those who have been employed one year or more. Sick leave is granted in special cases.

The Welfare Association wishes to thank the employees of the Department for the whole-hearted support which has made these things possible, and to express appreciation especially to the Secretary and his staff, Dr. Stockberger, Mr. Jump, Mr. Nelson, and the many others who have lent advice and council.

ALBERT M. DAY, President.

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